ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER: Nurses’ Perceptions of Preparedness for Transition to Practice

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DATE: July, 2011

Newly registered nurses are expected to be knowledgeable and competent in a variety of skills when entering practice in an acute care setting. The purpose of this descriptive study is to investigate the adequacy of preparation that recent graduate nurses received for the role of hospital staff nurse provided by contemporary baccalaureate nursing programs, as perceived by recent graduates. This study is a replication of Ellerton and Gregor’s (2003) study. The theoretical framework is an interpretive social science approach. The sample of newly registered baccalaureate nurses (n = 17) will be selected from the group of nurses beginning the initial nursing employment at an acute care medical center in western Michigan. Three interviews will be conducted with each nurse over time at 3, 6, and 12 months following employment. Ellerton and Gregor’s semi-structured interview guide will be used to elicit information about the nature of work roles and activity sequencing, planning and priority setting, clinical judgment, and technical knowledge and skills related to readiness to perform. The findings will provide information about the new registered nurses’ perceptions of readiness for transition to practice in acute care.